

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 18-20, 24 and 28 are amended, claim 2 is canceled, and claims 31-33 are added.

In particular, claims 1, 6, 20, 24 and 28 are amended to more clearly recite the features of the claims. Claims 1, 18 and 19 are amended to incorporate and clarify the subject matter originally recited in claim 2. See the specification at, for example, page 33, lines 3-15. Accordingly, claim 2 is canceled. Claims 31-33 are added to recite and clarify the subject matter recited in claims 12 and 13 as originally filed. See the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 14-21; and page 30, lines 1-8.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiners Metjahic and Goddard for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the June 30, 2004 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065709 to MacKenzie. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that MacKenzie discloses all elements recited in claims 1-30. Applicants respectfully submit that MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest temporal knowledge assets that indicate how the knowledge assets will change from present to a future time, as recited in claims 1 and 3-19.

As discussed during the interview, MacKenzie discloses providing a knobby survey using the theory of organizational hologram and its organizational diagnostic survey. See paragraph 0018. MacKenzie discloses conducting an employee opinion survey to obtain information from employees about the features and properties of an organization. MacKenzie discloses obtaining

employees' opinions, but does not disclose or suggest indication of how knowledge assets will change. Therefore, MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest temporal knowledge assets that indicate how the knowledge assets will change from present to a future time, as recited in claims 1 and 3-19.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest comparing results determined for the first awareness data and the second awareness data, as recited in claims 20-23, or comparing results calculated for the first awareness data and results calculated for the second awareness data, as recited in claims 28-30.

As discussed above, MacKenzie discloses providing a knobby survey and obtaining employees' opinions. MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest comparing results determined or calculated for the first awareness data and a second awareness data. Therefore, MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest comparing results determined for the first awareness data and the second awareness data, as recited in claims 20-23, or comparing results calculated from the first awareness data and the results calculated for the second awareness data, as recited in claims 28-30.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest accumulating as third awareness data, information pertaining to the degree of contribution of each subject, and specifying the subjects who have input the data pertaining to the degree of contribution, as recited in claims 24-27.

As discussed above, MacKenzie discloses providing a knobby survey and obtaining employees' opinion. MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest information pertaining to the degree of contribution. Therefore, MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest accumulating as third awareness data, information pertaining to the degree of contribution of each subject, and specifying the subjects who have input the data pertaining to the degree of contribution, as recited in claims 24-27.

For at least the above reasons, MacKenzie does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1 and 3-30. Therefore, MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 3-30. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicants also submit that claim 31 is patentable over MacKenzie. MacKenzie discloses "splits" as divisions of respondents based on coding information. See paragraph 0039. The coding information consists of personal information such as name, position, rank, gender, age. See paragraph 0038. Nowhere does MacKenzie disclose or suggest community of subjects who are interested in particular knowledge or whose work styles are similar. Therefore, MacKenzie does not disclose or suggest generating at least one community of subjects who are interested in particular knowledge or whose work styles are similar based on the results of the analysis, as recited in claim 31.

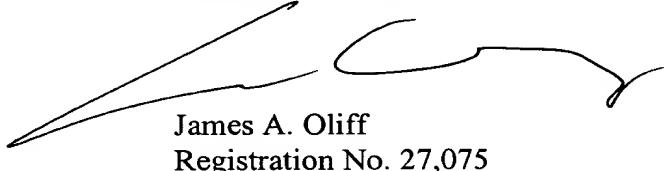
Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32 and 33 are patentable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: July 15, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--